

Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A method of transmitting information, comprising the steps of:

encrypting input information into encryption-resultant information;

combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval into a combination-resultant information block;

adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block; and

outputting the error correction data block;

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

10. (New) A method of recording information, comprising the steps of:

encrypting input Information into encryption-resultant information;

combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval into a combination-resultant information block;

adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block; and

recording the error correction data block on a recording medium;

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned

to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

11. (New) A method of recording information, comprising the steps of:

encrypting input audio visual information into encryption-resultant information;

combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval into a combination-resultant information block;

adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block; and

recording the error correction data block on a portion of a recording medium which corresponds to a prescribed number of tracks or sectors:

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

12. (New) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the recording medium comprises a magnetic tape.

13. (New) A tape-like recording medium formed with slant tracks and loaded with 1) encryption-resultant audio visual information, 2) decrypting information for decrypting the encryption-resultant audio visual information, and 3) an error correction code signal added to a combination of the encryption-resultant audio visual information and the decrypting information, wherein a portion of the encryption-resultant audio visual information in every prescribed data interval and a piece of the decrypting information used for decrypting the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval are combined into a combination-resultant information block, and a portion of the error correction code signal is added to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction

data block assigned to a prescribed number of ones among the slant tracks, and wherein pieces of the decrypting information are dispersively placed in error correction data blocks in a manner such that one piece of the decrypting information is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every piece of the decrypting information can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

14. (New) An apparatus for transmitting information, comprising:

means for encrypting input information into encryption-resultant information;

means for combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval into a combination-resultant information block;

means for adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block; and

means for outputting the error correction data block;

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

15. (New) An apparatus for recording Information, comprising:

means for encrypting input information into encryption-resultant information;

means for combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant Information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data Interval into a combination-resultant information block;

means for adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block; and

means for recording the error correction data block on a recording medium;

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.

16. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for encrypting input information into encryption-resultant information;

means for combining 1) a portion of the encryption-resultant information in every prescribed data interval and 2) a decrypting information piece for decryption of the portion of the encryption-resultant information in the prescribed data interval into a combination-resultant information block;

means for adding an error correction code signal to the combination-resultant information block to form an error correction data block;

wherein the decrypting information pieces are dispersively placed in the error correction data blocks in a manner such that one decrypting information piece is assigned to one error correction data block and hence every decrypting information piece can be reproduced from a corresponding error correction data block.